

Service." Mr. MCLEARY BROWN, like his predecessors Messrs. F. H. MERRILL and J. F. SCHROEDER, is a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service of China and owes allegiance to the Inspector-General, Sir ROBERT HART, of Korea is now wholly independent of China, the latter by the Treaty of Shimonoseki having renounced all claims to suzerainty over the peninsula; and we can only

LORD RIPON'S BOUNDARY BILL.
Lord Ripon's Bill enabling the colonies to deal with the alteration of boundaries of annexations now requiring a special Act of Parliament, has been read a second time in the House of Lords.

cient, more especially so in the matter of small arms ammunition. This is a matter of national importance, and we hope that things are not so bad as they have been represented to us. The army and the public have, however, a right to be told the truth. We trust that some member of Parliament who takes an interest in army subjects will put such questions in the House of Commons, as will elicit the true facts of the case. If our alarms are shown to be groundless we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that we have been instrumental in settling at ease the minds of many officers who are now under the impression that our store of small-arm ammunition is dangerously low. On the other hand, if our fears are well founded, then the matter must be pushed to a satisfactory conclusion without delay."

Our independence would be threatened. More significant still were the words of the Russian Emperor, Alexander II, as quoted by Captain F. Beaufort, in an article in the *Atlantic Quarterly Review* of October 1877, which run as follows :—
"The much-lauded two centuries of friendship between Russia and China, notwithstanding all our efforts to prolong it, even at the price of concessions and indolgence, hang in reality by a thread which any day may snap asunder. The favourable solution of the many vexed questions which are hardy to be attained by peaceful means. It may be that the moment for this is not far distant. Whether we like it or not, we have a long account which must be settled, and the practical proof given to our haughty neighbours, that Russian courage are equally potent factors. Whether in the heart of Great Russia or in the Pacific War East."

place, and her channel was gratefully
 given. Mrs. Creagh had been told by one
 unimpaired opinion, that she had filled her
 position as the first Lady in the Colony with
 consummate tact and grace. She has been
 head of our social life here and the charm
 which she has dispensed the Government House
 hospitalities will long be remembered. The
 universal regret in losing her will be in a measure
 mitigated by the satisfaction of remembering
 that she leaves us in much better health than
 when she first arrived.
 Governor and Mrs. Creagh carry away with
 them the kindest good wishes of every one.
 We trust, for our own sakes, that some day or
 other they may be back amongst us again; but
 if not we can only hope that it will be because
 promotion in the Imperial service has been
 the reward of his years' arduous and anxious
 but not unsuccessful work in British North Borneo.

